

MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH: News You Can Use!

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*What is the Office of
Community
Engagement?*

*What is Community
Based Participatory
Research and why is
it important?*

*What is a research
navigator?*

*What is the Peer
Health Navigator
Pilot Project?*

These and other
questions will be
answered in the
future editions
of ...

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LACDMH Partners with USC to Promote Mental Health Research

LACDMH is partnering with USC's Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute (SC CTSI) to strengthen the bridge between research scientists and the mental health community. USC and Children's Hospital Los Angeles received this five-year \$56.8

Million grant from NIH to promote the application of scientific discoveries in



real-life settings and improve public health and health care in LA. The SC CTSI is a multi-disciplinary partnership that also includes Kaiser Permanente Southern California, the LA County Department of Health Services and the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County.

What is the SC CTSI?

The SC CTSI is one of 60 research institutes in 31 states and the District of Columbia that have been created by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Each is designed to focus on translational research, which seeks to speed up the process in which medi-

cal and health-related research moves from university and laboratory settings to community-based practices. As one of the SC CTSI's Internal Oversight Board members, Dr. Southard, Director of Mental Health, has been instrumental in assuring that

mental health was one of the primary issues to be addressed with USC's prestigious grant. Other priority issues include cancer, cardiovascular conditions, diabetes/obesity, HIV and other infectious diseases, all issues that also affect the mental health of our community.

Who are John Brekke & Holly Kiger?

To facilitate the goals of the grant, LACDMH will be working closely with John Brekke, PhD and Holly Kiger, RN, MN, CNS. Dr. Brekke, a co-director of the Office of Community Engagement at the SC CTSI and a prominent researcher from USC's School of Social Work, has been working with LACDMH for many years, creating research projects

that focus on improving community-based services for individuals diagnosed with severe mental illness. Dr. Brekke's research, including his recently completed Peer Health Navigator Pilot Project (focused on helping consumers access health care services) will be featured in future newsletters. Ms. Kiger, a research navigator with SC CTSI's Office of Commu-

nity Engagement, is a community mental health nurse with twenty five years experience working at a LACDMH contract agency. She will be using her experience as a health care provider, trainer and researcher to help facilitate new research projects based on the needs of our mental health community and to help disseminate relevant mental health research information.

Submitted by Holly Kiger, RN, MN, CNS, Research Navigator, SC-CTSI, Office of Community Engagement